

ELBY + KEENE
LETTERS

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TRIAL + PUNISHMENT

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The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

The Selby and Leeneea Letters

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

St Louis Oct 21 1862

Dearest husband.

Why do you not come home?
You left me for two days only, and you now
have been from home more than two weeks.
In that long time only sent me one small
note, a few cold words, with a check
for money which I did not require.
What has come over you? Have you
forgotten your wife and child?
Baby calls for papa, until my
heart aches — we are so lonely
without you. I have written to you
again and again, and as a last
resource, I yesterday wrote to Charlie
begging him to see you and tell you
to come home. I am so ill —
not able to leave my room. If I were
I would go to you, wherever you
were if in this world.

Mama says I must not write any
more. I am so weak — Louis

darling, do not stay away any
longer from your heart broken
wife Leena

Dear Louis.

(1.)

The time has at last come
that we have all so wished for, and
upon you everything depends. As it was
decided before you left Memphis we
were to cast lots. Accordingly we did
so, and you are to be the Charlotte
Corday of the 19th Century.

When you remember the fearful Solenn
vow that was taken by us, you will
feel that there is no drawback. Abe
must die, and now.

You can choose your weapons - the
cup - the Knife - the Bullet -

The cup failed us once and might
again. Johnson who will give this,
has been like an enraged demon

The English gentleman Warcourt
must not act hastily. Remember he
has 10 days - Strike sure for your
home! Strike for your country. Bide
your time but strike sure! -
Get introduced. Congratulate him
Listen to his stories! - Not many
more will the brute tell to
earthly friends. Do anything
but fail! and meet us at the
appointed place within the fortnight.
Enclosed this note together with one
of poor Seeneas. I will give the
reason for this when we meet

I could go to you but duty calls
me to the west. You will probably
hear from me at Washington

(2)

Since the meeting, because it has not
fallen upon him to rid the world of
the monster. He says the blood of his
grey haired father, and his noble
brother call upon him for revenge.

and revenge he will have. If he
cannot wreak it upon the fountain
head, he will upon some of his blood
thirsty generals - ~~Butter it would~~
Butter would suit him.

As our plans were all concocted
and well arranged before we separated
and as I am writing on the cars
on my way to Detroit, I will only
say that all rests upon you.

You know where to find your
friends - Your disguises are so perfect
and complete that without one
knew your face, no police
telegraphic dispatch could catch you.

(4) Sanders is doing us no good in
Canada. Believe me yours
Brother in love
Charles Selby



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<http://archive.org/details/assassinationofa00selb>

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